Talking Points Medicaid/ ACA

Governor Hogan:

Please contact the new administration and Republican Congress and ask them to oppose any attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) Medicaid eligibility expansion. Marylanders have too much at stake, and as the elected leader of this State you cannot remain silent on this issue any longer!

* **291,000 will lose Medicaid coverage:**  Nearly 291,000 Maryland residents now have coverage under the Medicaid expansion.  These low-income residents would likely lose coverage if expanded eligibility was eliminated. Without coverage, these individuals will ultimately end up seeking care in hospital emergency rooms after a treatable medical condition has significantly deteriorated. Further, without expanded Medicaid coverage, those with medical conditions may find themselves unable to work and provide for their families.
* **The Mentally Ill and Those with Substance Use Disorders will Lose Coverage**: For those 11,000 individuals within the expanded Medicaid eligibility population experiencing symptoms of mental illness or substance use disorder, loss of eligibility means they may no longer have access to care so critical to their daily lives. This is particularly important for the State’s efforts to combat opioid abuse.
* **Children and the Disabled are Particularly Vulnerable**: As to children and the disabled who were receiving Medicaid through the ACA’s new streamlined eligibility process, loss of expanded Medicaid eligibility means they are now more vulnerable than ever.
* **The State Budget would lose Billions of Dollars:**  The impact on the State budget will be devastating. It is estimated that Maryland would lose $1.9 billion in federal Medicaid funding in 2019 and $23.4 billion between 2019 and 2028. These numbers are probably low when you consider that those who lose coverage will probably wait longer to get the care they need instead of seeking less expensive preventive care. .

 General Talking points ACA

 The ACA is a comprehensive program with multiple components. This includes far more than just the health insurance exchanges and subsidies to help individuals purchase insurance. A major part of the ACA is the expansion of Medicaid. In addition young adults are now covered up to age 26 under their parents insurance. The ACA has enabled those with preexisting conditions to obtain insurance. Seniors will risk loss of free annual preventive visits and loss of the improved Medicare drug benefits that were a result of closing the donut hole.

* **476,000 Marylanders could lose coverage** If the ACA is partially or completely repealed many Marylanders would lose coverage.
* **Many Marylanders have Pre-existing Conditions:** Roughly 2.5 million Marylanders have pre-existing conditions that would preclude them from coverage if the ACA was repealed.
* **Preventive Care is at Risk: Seniors** are at risk of losing annual wellness visits.
* **Prescription Drug Cost Would Go Up for Seniors**: 86,000 seniors in Maryland and people with disabilities are currently saving $1,158 on prescription drugs annually.
* **Marylanders will Lose Jobs:** Estimates are that 52,000 private and public sector jobs could be lost if the ACA is repealed.
* **Comparable cost for women:** Prior to the ACA women paid up to 39% more for coverage than men

 See **Consumer Health First for additional impacts, statistics and resources** [www.consumerhealthfirst.org](http://www.consumerhealthfirst.org)

ASK: Put Marylanders first and contact the President and Congress and tell them no cuts to the ACA’s coverage and the ACAs expansion of Medicaid.